

and rightfully deserving of this honor. In the world of Gospel and Christian music, the Hoppers are at the forefront, not only for the quality of their music, but for their commitment to their faith. For more than half-a-century, this Rockingham County family has been spreading musical joy throughout the land.

What was started in humble beginnings in 1957 by Claude Hopper and his brothers, Will, Steve, Paul, and Monroe, came to be known as Hopper Brothers and Connie, when Claude, taking a break from his part-time job at the A&P food store in Madison, spotted Connie Shelton driving through the small town and asked her to join his Gospel group on the spot. Now celebrating 50 years of marriage and music together, they have mentored many musicians and singers over the years. Their sons, Dean and Michael, later joined the group as lead vocalist and drummer/vocalist.

Kim Greene of The Greenes married Dean Hopper, and in 1989 she also joined The Hoppers as soprano. Soon, The Hoppers scored a string of number one Gospel hits including *Here I Am*, *Milk and Honey*, *Mention My Name*, *Anchor to the Power of the Cross*, *Heavenly Sunrise*, *That's Him*, and *Yes I Am*. In 1996, Mike Hopper married Denise, who became the group's pianist. In 1998, their version of *Shoutin' Time* became their biggest hit.

Over the ensuing years, numerous awards and accolades came their way. They have been nominated and received just about every major award in the Gospel music industry. Known as America's Favorite Family of Gospel Music, The Hoppers are not just musicians, but business leaders in music publishing and concert promotions. Best of all, we can claim The Hoppers as North Carolina's own.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate The Hoppers on more than half-a-century of outstanding Gospel music. Best wishes to everyone gathered on Saturday, October 5, 2013, as a plaque is unveiled in Madison to honor The Hoppers, a true North Carolina musical treasure.

#### SUPPORT FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

#### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 2, 2013*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Since 1985, October has been designated as the month in which we campaign to raise awareness for breast cancer and celebrate the victories in research and innovation in treatment.

In 2013, an estimated 300,000 new cases of invasive and non-invasive breast cancer in women will arise and almost 40,000 women will die of breast cancer. In men, more than 2,000 cases of invasive breast cancer will be detected and about 400 men will die from breast cancer. Though the numbers are disheartening, breast cancer research has made significant strides.

Early detection of breast cancer through mammograms improves survival rates. Reg-

ular screenings remain the best way to detect breast cancer and women should be encouraged to get regular exams. While 70 percent of women receive regular mammograms, this number can still be higher to increase prevention.

Unfortunately, we all know someone—a sister, mother, daughter, aunt, or another loved one—who has been diagnosed and suffered through breast cancer. Each year, the month of October reminds us of those lost and the survivors whose stories can empower us to continue to raise awareness and strive to find a cure for breast cancer. Please join me in supporting Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

#### CELEBRATING PROFESSOR ALBERTO RIOS

#### HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 2, 2013*

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating Professor Alberto Rios, Arizona's debut Poet Laureate. He will serve a two-year term in this venerable position. His duties include annual public readings and a major literary project aimed to educate the public about poetry.

The Arizona Commission of the Arts selected Professor Rios because of his remarkable credentials. For nearly 40 years, Mr. Rios has preserved the culture and history of our great state through writing and community outreach. He has achieved recognition on both a local and national level. In his three decades of teaching at Arizona State University, Mr. Rios attained the status of Regents Professor—the highest distinction for a faculty member. As my colleague, I applaud his work in helping to make ASU a preeminent institution for higher education. As a devotee of the arts, I thank him for everything he has done to promote and advance artistic expression. Through his life's work, Professor Rios has helped enrich communities throughout Arizona.

Professor Alberto Rios represents the best in arts, culture and service to the public. It is my privilege to represent him in Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Professor Alberto Rios on this exceptional honor and in wishing him the utmost success in his upcoming term as Poet Laureate of Arizona.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MS. JEAN FICKLIN

#### HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 2, 2013*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I along with Representative SWALWELL, rise today to honor Ms. Jean Ficklin of Newark, California, a highly distinguished community member who, along with her husband Herman and four children, has been a resident of Newark for fifty years. Ms. Ficklin's excellence in education and promotion of African American culture and history is why she will be honored at the South County NAACP's 35th Annual Community Awards Gala in Hayward.

Ms. Ficklin set the stage for future instructors of color by being the first African American instructor in the school district. She spent thirty-three years educating and inspiring our youth as a teacher, ending her career in 1987 at Newark Unified School District.

Since her retirement, Ms. Ficklin has remained an active member in the community. She founded the Afro-American Cultural & Historical Society, Inc., an organization whose mission is to bring cross-cultural understanding of the African American community through the collection and preservation of art, artifacts, recorded media, and the sponsorship and coordination of awareness events. The organization's reach is vast and covers Newark and the Tri-City area, including Fremont, Union City, and Hayward. Ms. Ficklin also holds memberships in the NAACP and Alpha Delta Kappa International Sorority for Women Educators, among a variety of other groups.

The City of Newark, the California State Senate and Assembly, the County of Alameda, and so many more have previously recognized Ms. Ficklin for her excellence as an educator and cultural historian.

Please join us in honoring the extraordinary accomplishments of Ms. Jean Ficklin and her outstanding dedication to improving our society and fostering cultural understanding. May her love of education and her endless compassion continue to flow throughout our community.

#### VETERANS BENEFITS CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

SPEECH OF

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 1, 2013*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.J. Res. 72, the so-called "Honoring Our Promise to Veterans Act," which purports to fund those activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs that are required to cease due to the House Republicans' decision to shut down the government last night.

The bill before us is a cynical attempt by the Republican majority to extricate themselves from the mess they created when they voted to shut down the government.

Mr. Speaker, it would not be necessary to have to devote the considerable amount of time needed to debate and pass this legislation in the House and Senate and present it to the President if the House would simply pass the clean continuing resolution passed yesterday by the Senate.

The CR approved by the Senate funds the government and would bring an end to the unnecessary shutdown engineered by House Republicans that disrupts the lives of innocent and hard working federal employees and their families and the millions of Americans who depend upon the services they provide.

The clean CR passed by the Senate ensures that all the employees of the Federal Government are paid for the valuable and important service they provide to our Nation.

President Obama has reiterated that he will sign that CR—and only that CR—into law.

Mr. Speaker, instead of exempting certain groups and persons from the harm caused by